CLAIMS:

1. A thermal dye-transfer receiver element comprising:

(a) a dye-receiving layer 1;

(b) beneath layer 1, a microvoided layer 2 comprising, in a continuous phase, a polylactic-acid-based material, wherein microvoids in the microvoided layer provide a void volume of at least 25% by volume, and wherein at least about half of the microvoids are formed from void initiating particles less than 1.5 micrometer in average diameter; and

(c) beneath layer 2, an optional support layer 3.

2. The element of claim 1 wherein the particles are in the range of 0.1 to 1.0 micrometers in average diameter.

3. The element of claim 2 wherein the particles are in the range of about 0.2 to about 0.8 micrometers in average diameter.

4. The sheet of claim 1 wherein the dye-receiving layer exhibits a 60 degree gloss of greater than 45.

5. The sheet of claim 4 wherein the dye-receiving layer exhibits a 60 degree gloss of greater than 55.

6. The element of claim 1 wherein the microvoided layer is extruded or coextruded.

7. The element of claim 1 wherein the microvoided layer is biaxially oriented.

8. The element of claim 1 wherein the polylactic-acid-based material is composed of at least 75% by weight of poly(L-lactic acid).

9. The element of claim 1 wherein the particles are inorganic and make up from about 25 to about 75 weight % of the total weight of the microvoided layer.

10. The element of claim 1 wherein the particles are inorganic and make up from about 10 to about 60 weight % of the total weight of the microvoided layer and are blended with other void initiators to make up at least 20 weight percent total void initiators.

11. The element of claim 1 wherein the particles are organic and comprise from about 10 to about 45 weight % of the total weight of the microvoided layer.

12. The element of claim 1 wherein said polylactic-acid-based material is a mixture of at least 90% poly(L-lactic acid) and at least 1% poly(D-lactic acid).

13. The element of claim 9 wherein the inorganic particles are present in an amount between 35 to 65 weight percent.

14. The element of claim 9 wherein the inorganic particles are selected from the group consisting of barium sulfate, calcium carbonate, zinc sulfide, zinc oxide, titanium dioxide, silica, alumina, and combinations thereof.

15. The element of claim 14 wherein the inorganic particles have an average size of from 0.3 to 1.0 μm.

16. The element of claim 1 wherein the microvoided layer is in a coextruded multi-layer film below the dye-receiving layer.

17. The element of claim 16 wherein below the microvoided layer is a substrate layer that comprises a voided or non-voided polylactic-acid-based material and is adjacent to and integral with the microvoided layer.

18. The element of claim 1 wherein the continuous phase comprises additional polymers or blends of other polyesters.

19. The element of claim 1 wherein the element further comprises the support layer, which support layer comprises paper.

20. The element of claim 1 wherein the support layer is present and comprises a polymer sheet.

21. The element of claim 1 wherein one or more subbing layers are present between layers in the element.

22. The element of claim 1 wherein the support layer is present and has a thickness of from 120 to 250 μm thick and the microvoided layer is part of a composite coextruded film that is from 30 to 50 μm thick.

23. The element of claim 1 wherein the support layer is present and comprises a polyolefin backing layer located on a side of the support layer opposite to the microvoided layer.

24. The element of claim 1 wherein the microvoided layer is the upper microvoided layer of a composite film in which below the microvoided layer is a substrate core layer and below the substrate core layer is a lower second microvoided layer.

25. The element of claim 24 wherein the upper and lower microvoided layers consist of a same material and the substrate core layer is non-voided.

26. The element of claim 24 wherein the substrate core layer is comprised of a non-voided polylactic-acid-based material or a polylactic-acid-based material voided with non-crosslinked polymer particles.

27 The element of claim 1 wherein the polylactic-acid-based material comprises additional polymers or blends of other polyesters.

28. The element of claim 1 wherein the dye-receiving layer comprises a polyester material.

29. The element of claim 1 wherein the microvoided layer comprises, in a continuous phase, polylactic-acid-based material having dispersed therein a blend of inorganic and non-crosslinked polymer particles that are immiscible with the polylactic-acid-based material.

30. The element of claim 29 wherein the ratio of the volume of inorganic to the volume of the non-crosslinked polymer particles that are immiscible with the polylactic-acid-based material is from 4:1 to 1:4.

31. The element of claim 29 wherein the non-crosslinked polymer particles that are immiscible with the polylactic-acid-based material have an olefinic backbone.

32. The element of claim 1 wherein the thickness of the microvoided layer is from 20 to 150 micrometers.

33. The element of claim 1 wherein the dye-receiving layer comprises a polymeric binder containing a polyester and/or polycarbonate.

34. A thermal-dye-transfer assemblage comprising a dye-donor element, and the element of claim 1.

35. A thermal dye transfer assemblage comprising a dye-donor element, and the dye-transfer receiver element of claim 1.

36. A method of forming an image comprising imagewise thermally transferring dyes onto the thermal dye-transfer receiver element of claim 1.